



Stairwell Windows Forwarder 1.8 Release Notes

Version: 1.8

Date: Aug 26, 2026

New Features

Reporting:

- Added detection and reporting of fileless script executions by capturing the command-line arguments of inline script invocations (FOR-806)
- Added visibility into **Windows hosts file mappings**, allowing modifications to the hosts file to be collected and reported (FOR-773)
- Implemented persistent tracking of **file sighting events** to improve reporting (FOR-796)
- Extended file sighting events to include sighting type metadata (FOR-795)

Reliability:

- Improved resilience of the file sighting reporting pipeline (FOR-797)
- Added automatic backpressure handling to reinforce event logging (FOR-802)

Improvement

- Updated Windows Forwarder branding — The installer and Windows service now use the new Stairwell logo and icons (ENG-365)

Performance Enhancements

- Implemented a new cross-platform file read I/O throttling mechanism that controls file read throughput during hashing and file uploads (FOR-805)
- Improved efficiency of kernel driver event processing (FOR-595)
- Added **kernel-mode glob pattern exclusions**, allowing excluded files to be filtered within the driver before events are delivered to user mode (FOR-804)

Bug Fixes

- Compatibility issue when saving older Microsoft Office (.doc and .xls) files has been resolved (FOR-788)



- Forwarder registration disruptions on localized Windows due to non-ASCII characters in the User-Agent header (FOR-789)
- Updated content analysis protocol for kernel driver (FOR-787)
- Improved service startup reliability when loading performance counter configuration from the registry (FOR-786)
- Corrected a race condition that prevented host name resolution after reboot due to an early DNS lookup (FOR-785)
- Fixed an internal concurrency issue by using the appropriate synchronization mechanism (FOR-791)
- Updated file DB migration logic (FOR-792)

Thirdparty Components

- Updated the **.NET Runtime to version 8.0.28** to incorporate the latest runtime reliability, security, and performance improvements (FOR-809)

Known Issues

- Fixed scheduled scan windows that span midnight (FOR-810)
- When the driver is disabled, the forwarder still attempts to sight files when they are executed. File sightings may be missed on volumes added after the forwarder starts, for example, on removable USB. In some cases, the OS provides the forwarder an unexpected path, and the forwarder skips the file. (FOR-521)
- We recommend installing to the default directory. If you install to a custom directory and upgrade, the upgraded version will be installed to the default directory (FOR-258)
- Updating from 1.4.x to this release is not supported. You can either update to 1.5.1 first (which requires a reboot to succeed) or you can manually uninstall 1.4.x and then install this release (FOR-357)

File Details

SHA256 Hash	File Name	URL
53D09CC44931999D7A373EF6BE6AF82F22515737A6374F21E009CB53A2705F88	StairwellForwarderBundle-1.8.0.62.exe	https://downloads.stairwell.com/windows/1.8.0/StairwellForwarderBundle-1.8.0.62.exe
0C621F92E26BD182067EC6BD8E21D4B4EFC0FAFAFC60203DD4DB226CC4E64053	StairwellForwarder-1.8.0.62.exe	https://downloads.stairwell.com/windows/1.8.0/StairwellForwarder-1.8.0.62.exe
27271C9DF6D9810EA2A227D26B6FB21DC21DC7C3C5D355DE1578CC6C5F6A3876	StairwellForwarderInternal-1.8.0.62.msi	https://downloads.stairwell.com/windows/1.8.0/StairwellForwarderInternal-1.8.0.62.msi